

“Accessible Art” at the Broad: *Exceptions* Exhibit Combines Braille, Poetry and Painting

EAST LANSING, Mich. — A one-night interactive exhibit at the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum will feature student-generated art that bridges painting and poetry. The special installation is designed to engage viewers across the visual ability spectrum. Blind and sighted guests are invited to experience the artwork with their eyes and their hands, as each art piece contains tactile elements inspired by Braille poems.

The event is hosted by *Exceptions*, an MSU-based literary journal that features interviews and creative works by individuals in the visually impaired community. Alongside the “Accessible Art” exhibit, *Exceptions* will debut its first print-audio hybrid issue, containing works of fiction, memoir, poetry and visual art.

“We are incredibly excited to be collaborating with the Broad Museum to share this remarkable student artwork with the local community,” said Katie Grimes, student managing editor of *Exceptions*.

The project is the result of university-wide interdisciplinary cooperation. Grimes and the editorial team commissioned original poems from students enrolled in a poetry course with Prof. Robin Silbergleid. These poems then served as inspiration for students enrolled in Prof. Alisa Henriquez’s studio art course. The resulting works display a wide range of interpretations and appeal to visitors both sighted and blind.

The evening will include an introduction from the *Exceptions* editorial staff, a talk on museum accessibility from Michael Hudson, the director of MSU’s Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities (RCPD), and a behind-the-scenes video documenting the creation of the exhibited art pieces.

“Michigan State University is committed to fully including people with a range of disabilities, and we are excited to see this forward student-driven momentum in accessible art,” said Hudson.

The exhibit will be on display from 7–9 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14, 2015. Programming will begin at 7:15 p.m. Members of the university, local community and beyond are invited to attend and engage with these dynamic works of art.